

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 162949

EXDIS; FOR AMBASSADOR LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: PROPOSALS FOR PRIVATE ALL-PARTIES
MEETING

REFS: (A) PRETORIA 3543, (B) PRE,ORIA 3544

1. THE DEPARTMENT REGARDS PROGRESS MADE IN YOUR CONSULTATIONS SO FAR AS VERY ENCOURAGING. THE PROPOSALS FOR PRIVATE ALL-PARTIES MEETINGS, COMING FROM VARIOUS MEMBERS OF INTERNAL GROUP INCLUDING IAN SMITH, CONSTITUTE A VERY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, AND SHOW THAT THERE IS GREAT FLUIDITY IN THE SITUATION OF WHICH WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE. YOUR RESPONSES TO THE SUGGESTION THUS FAR HAVE STRUCK JUST THE RIGHT NOTE, GENERALLY POSITIVE BUT POINTING OUT POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WITH ONE OR ANOTHER SUGGESTED FORMAT.

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2. WE THINK YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE SMITH'S PROPOSAL FOR A PRIVATE MEETING OF THE PRINCIPALS, POSSIBLY IN BOTSWANA, WITH NKOMO AND KAUNDA. IT WOULD PROBABLY BE BEST TO PUT IT FORWARD AS AN IDEA WHICH HAS EMERGED FROM THE ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS, RATHER THAN ASCRIBING IT TO SMITH HIMSELF, AT LEAST AT FIRST.

3. WE HAVE YOUR VIEWS ON TIMING OF A MEETING, ADVISING
OTHER POSTS, AND NEED FOR PERSONNEL SUPPORT UNDER CAREFUL
CONSIDERATION, AND WILL ADVISE. VANCE

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